

Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims:

1. A commerce management method for automatically managing agreements including one or more contingencies, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) logging at least one condition for an agreement and identifying at least one potential response as indicating satisfaction of said at least one condition;
 - b) retrieving information related to responses to each condition from independent sources;
 - c) checking said retrieved information to determine whether said agreement is determinate; and
 - d) notifying contracting parties when said agreement is determined to be determinate.
5. (Once Amended) A commerce management method as in claim 4, wherein the retrieving step (b) further comprises the steps of:
 - i) sending reminders to parties identified in said agreement; and
 - ii) receiving input [form] from said parties, said input being included in said retrieved information.
12. (Once Amended) [A] An automated commerce management system comprising:
 - a plurality of remotely connected terminals, contracting parties entering information about contract conditions in said terminals;
 - a storage maintaining a contingency agreement database, said contingency agreement database including contracting party information and condition information on a plurality of agreements, said condition information [comprising] including:
 - one or more potential responses satisfying each condition, and
 - one or more [milestone] milestones for each said potential response;
 - and
 - an automatic data retriever retrieving condition response information from independent sources via one or more remotely connected computers.

16. (Once Amended) A computer program product for automated commerce management, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for logging conditions for agreements and for each logged condition identifying at least one potential response as indicating satisfaction;

computer readable program code means for retrieving information related to responses to each condition from independent sources;

computer readable program code means for checking said retrieved information to determine whether said agreement is determinate; and

computer readable program code means for notifying contracting parties when said agreements is determinate.